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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: W. Clinton PETTY  
Title: METHOD FOR GRADUATED LOAD SENSITIVE TASK  
DISPATCHING IN COMPUTING SYSTEMS  
Appl. No.: 09/527,247  
Filing Date: March 17, 2000  
Examiner: A. Mofiz  
Art Unit: 2175

**AMENDMENT AND REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**RECEIVED**

APR 09 2003

Technology Center 2

Sir:

In reply to the Office Action mailed on October 3, 2002, the period for reply extending to April 3, 2003, please amend the application as follows:

**In the Claims:**

In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.121, please substitute for claims 1, 4-10, 13-14 and 17 the following rewritten versions of the same claims, as amended. The changes are shown explicitly in the attached "Marked Up Version Showing Changes Made." In addition, please cancel claim 19 without prejudice or disclaimer.

B<sup>1</sup> 1. (Amended) A method for detecting and reacting to changes in depth of one or more queues which store messages processed by tasks executing in a computer system, comprising:

setting a high threshold of a depth of the queue to a first value;

setting a low threshold of a depth of the queue to a second value lower than the first value;

detecting when the depth of the queue equals or exceeds the high threshold;

raising the high threshold by a predetermined increment each time the depth of the queue equals or exceeds the high threshold; and

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